



PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

Annual Reports St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cary, North Carolina

Jan 1, 2021

Annual Reports from Ministry Groups and Committees for 2020

HOSPITALITY, PARISH LIFE, AND PASTORAL CARE

CARE AND SHARE:

Care and Share Ministry responds to short-term needs for our St. Paul's family. COVID-19 has affected how we provide care in 2020. A major change is that we have not been able to include our 100+ church volunteers in providing for needs. Most of the assistance given in 2020 was accomplished by only members of the Leadership Team. Meals and other items were delivered by masked Team members to the recipient's doors while physically distanced. In 2020 the CnS Team provided the following:

- Meals---59 meals were delivered.
- New Baby Meals---4 meals.
- Funeral Receptions---1
- Transportation---2 persons were each driven to several MD appointments.
- Prayer List Contacts: Melonie Wigley and Kathy Huffman have continued to call and to send written notes to those on the Prayer List.
- Card Ministry: Approximately 160 cards total, including Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You, and All Saint's Day cards were sent. Linda Cozzolino designs and makes our All Saint's Day cards while Judy Wall makes our other greeting cards.

- Prayer Shawls and Baby Blankets: In conjunction with the Prayer Stitcher's, 4 Shawls and 2 Blankets were given.
- A new ministry, the Flower Ministry, has developed during the pandemic with the donation of fresh flowers every Friday from Whole Foods in Cary. This delightful ministry is led by Melonie Wigley and Linda Cozzolino. Thirteen persons volunteer as either Florist Designers or Delivery persons. The Flower Ministry has brought cheer to more than 200 recipients of the flower arrangements and to those involved in providing this gift since its inception in June, 2020.

Care and Share Leadership Team members are Beth Barnes, Gail Cowper, Jeff Kager, Judy Crow, Kathy Huffman, Lesley Dinwiddie, Linda Cozzolino, Melonie Wigley, Nicole Gatchalian, Sara Concini, Susan Coulter, Margie Best and Tony Wike, Priest Liaison. We have met monthly on Zoom.

Submitted by Melonie Wigley and Marjorie Best.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE:

The Fellowship Events Team ministry organizes events to bring parishioners together to enjoy fellowship, create friendships, and provide help to other ministries all in God's name.

We started the year with a table at the Mini Ministry Fair in February. On February 9th, we supported the Valentine's Day/USO coffee hour. On February 23rd, Improv/The Unintentionals presented their interactive comedy show in the parish hall.

We made coffee for Coffee Morning on Hermano Day in March. We had plans to go to Art in Bloom on March 22nd, and we were finalizing plans for the Seder on March 29th, but then COVID interrupted those and future plans. Since that time, we have met on Zoom. We did start planning our St. Paul's note card sale in November. This will come to fruition this year.

Submitted by Sheila Reilly.

MEMORIAL GARDEN:

The Memorial Garden Ministry's first and foremost responsibility is to ensure that St. Paul's Memorial Garden is and continues to be a place for the interment/inurment of ashes in simple dignity and in surroundings which proclaim our resurrection faith.

The Ministry submits the following for 2020 – a year of restrictions due to COVID-19:

- Continued to have major workdays (spring and winter), while practicing social distancing and wearing masks, and performed routine maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Additionally, made sure that the irrigation system was inspected and maintained, replacing one valve.
- Cleaned all granite and pavers throughout the Memorial Garden.
- Placed greenery on the Markers in the Garden and arranged flowers in vases for the Columbarium for Easter and Advent. Palms were placed in all of the vases for Palm Sunday. And, seasonal flowers were planted in the Columbarium's pots.
- Ensured that the Memorial Garden was prepared and flowers in place for two interments in the Garden.
- Ordered the engraving of two names for the Garden's Marker. Ordered three urns with engraved facing plates for reserved Niches in the Columbarium. The services for the interments were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions.
- Maintained and updated the Garden Plot Plan and the Columbarium Niche Plan.
- Continued to maintain the Memorial Garden Handbook.

Due to an act of vandalism in the Memorial Garden, the committee will work with the Rector in the coming year to design and install a sign to remind people of its sacred ground.

This has been a difficult year for all. COVID-19 restrictions and precautions have forced the postponement of three interments in the Columbarium and one interment in the Garden. The members of the Memorial Garden Ministry extend their heartfelt sympathies to the four families affected.

Members of the Ministry are Frank Bricio, Lisa Brown, Gale Herrman, Alana Loughlin, Katie and Kurt Robinson, Pete Stockett, Jackie Straub, Gordon Werner and Keith Wood.

We continue to be grateful to those volunteers who assist in the major workdays, maintenance or in the arrangement of flowers. Those parishioners are Jon Copperwheat, Brad Hirschy, Kay Lindquist, Joyce Loughlin, Stacey and Ryan Prudich, and Paula Sours.

Submitted by Jackie Straub

MEN'S GROUP:

The St. Paul's Episcopal Church Men's Group is a self-supporting, active ministry that includes men from many walks of life with different skills and backgrounds. We work on providing our time, talent, and treasure to St. Paul's and its programs and needs, as well as getting together for social activities. All

men in St. Paul's over the age of 18 are eligible members of the Men's Group, and we currently have around 50 active members.

The major activity in 2020 for members of the Men's Group was maintaining the church grounds. Even though we were not meeting at church, the grass and bushes keep growing. We are always looking for addition help in grass mowing and trimming.

Submitted by Fillmore Bowen, Men's Group President.

PRAYER STITCHERS:

"Not everyone can save the world, but you can do small things with great love." (Mother Theresa). As a member of Prayer Stitchers said recently, "That's what we attempt to do."

Prayer Stitchers is a prayerful handwork ministry which supports the mission of St. Paul's by making and distributing items that provide comfort and encouragement to persons within the parish and beyond including homeless persons and families, low-income families, children, individuals in hospital and hospice care, veterans, and others in need.

We are an outreach and in-reach ministry. In 2020, we made items in support of St. Paul's outreach ministries including Refugee for Refugees (an afghan for our refugee family) and Veterans and Military Outreach (170 prayer squares for distribution to troops at Easter). One hundred twenty (120) prayer squares were made for the Rainbow Gathering in January and February to distribute at events in May and June.

During the year we donated 511 items including hats, scarves, and other items to three non-profit organizations and agencies for distribution to persons in need.

Three (3) baby blankets were given during 2020 to families with a new baby. Two (2) blankets were given in coordination with the Care and Share Ministry to parish families and one was mailed to a family who lives in another state. Twelve (12) prayer shawls were given to persons facing major health issues or loss of loved ones, including parishioners and friends and family members of parishioners. Five (5) shawls were given in coordination with the Care and Share Ministry.

Thirty-eight (38) prayer pockets were distributed to parishioners and persons outside the parish facing illness, loss of loved ones, depression, job loss and other challenges. Thirty-one (31) prayer squares were available in the narthex during January and February, before the pandemic, for parishioners to take for themselves or to give to others. Seventy-eight (78) prayer squares were given to Glenaire Retirement Community for residents there.

Prayer Stitchers has adapted to the challenges presented by the pandemic. We meet weekly on Zoom and welcome all to join us for prayer and fellowship as we make items to give to others. Please send an email to PrayerStitchers@StPaulsCary.org if interested in joining us.

Submitted by Beth Barnes and Marilyn Mitchell.

EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (CMC):

Children's Ministry Vision: St. Paul's Children's Ministry offers a nurturing and inclusive environment where all children experience God's love and begin their spiritual journey.

Children's Ministry Mission: Drawing upon the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church and by partnering with our parents, we strive to nurture the faith of every child and build a church community.

The Children's Ministries Committee (CMC) is so thankful for all of the volunteers and parishioners that have supported CMC programs as we continue to help the children of St. Paul's know Christ and make Christ known. The CMC is comprised of Natalie Sroka (Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator), Melissa Raasch (Chair), Lauren Campbell, Rachel Campbell, Sarah Fisher, Anthea Fok, Carrie Hess, Callie Simrill-Hester, Shannon Robinson, Sandra Talbird, and Melanie Williams.

During 2020, monthly virtual Church School events have included Songs & Parables, Clergy-led live events, recorded Children's Chapel, and live Sunday School teachings. The virtual Christmas pageant provided opportunities for over 50 children to share the wonder and excitement of Jesus' birth with the parish virtually.

We also enjoyed hosting a special drive through live Nativity to more than 50 vehicles. Other special events sponsored by the CMC in 2020, included a Teddy Bear Tea, a Mardi Gras celebration, and Social Distanced Halloween Parade. We look forward to this new year and hope to be able to gather in



person again soon.



Submitted by Natalie Sroka, Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator.

JULIAN GATHERING:

The Julian Gathering is a small discussion group which meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. We have continued to gather via Zoom during the pandemic. At each meeting we read aloud and discuss a chapter from *The Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich.

Julian of Norwich was a 14th century English mystic who lived during a time of great political upheaval, social unrest, and recurring pandemics. In some ways, her world was not so different from ours. Yet, she was able to see beyond the trials of her time and to know that, as she said, "All shall be well." This message of hope and love is as powerful today as it was six hundred years ago.

The Julian Gathering offers an opportunity to talk about timely issues and concerns within a positive, spiritual framework. If you'd like to join our discussions, please contact me at lannywase@mac.com.

Submitted by Lanny Wase.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP:

The Women's Study Group has met monthly throughout 2020 – virtually since April – utilizing Zoom technology. We read books of interest to women and continue to alternate fiction and non-fiction, including spiritual and non-spiritual themes. Members of the group take turns leading the discussions. This has worked well over Zoom, but we are longing for the time we can meet in person again. We welcome new members – just contact Joyce Loughlin at loughlin1@mindspring.com to be added to the email notification list.

Submitted by Joyce Loughlin, Coordinator.

OUTREACH

DORCAS MINISTRIES:

Dorcas Ministries is funded by financial donations and proceeds from the Thrift Shop. In 2020, Dorcas Ministries has provided \$1,800,000 in assistance to 35,000 neighbors. Below is a summary of the past 3 years:

Neighbors & Funding	2018	2019	2020
<i>Financial Assistance Applicants</i>	14,200	14,800	5,500
<i>Food Pantry Shoppers</i>	9,900	9,000	24,500
<i>Training Center Participants</i>	1,700	3,000	3,100
<i>Financial Assistance Provided</i>	\$710,000	\$688,000	\$905,000
<i>Food Assistance Provided</i>	\$522,000	\$453,000	\$958,000
Grand Total	\$1,200,000 in assistance to 26,000 neighbors	\$1,100,000 in assistance to 26,000 neighbors	\$1,800,000 in assistance to 35,000 neighbors

The only fund raiser is the annual Thanksgiving Breakfast and this year it had to be virtual. We have raised \$333,443 so far. As a Board Member and a virtual Table Chair, I was able to raise \$8,750 towards that amount through the generosity of many of St. Paul's parishioners.

Dorcas has a total of 510 volunteers but due to the pandemic, only 269 are currently active. More volunteers are needed if you have an extra 3 hours a week to spare. Dorcas revised its business model to allow for the slower than anticipated return of our volunteer base by adding temporary labor. The results of focusing on getting donations from the drop off area to the retail floor has improved sales almost to the pre pandemic level (even with reduced hours of operation).

In 2020, Dorcas paid off the mortgage on the Dorcas Plaza – a tremendous accomplishment.

For 2020, we collected 2,390 rolls of toilet paper, just 10 rolls short of our goal of 2,400. This is a fantastic success considering it was done during a pandemic when we were not physically at church. A big thank you to Gail Cowper for managing this collection and for all the parishioners that support this effort.

St. Paul's also provides volunteers for the Food Pantry the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We have a dedicated group of people that enjoy this added opportunity to help others.

Submitted by Nancy Fierke.

EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY: HERMANO DAY:

March 1, 2020 was St. Paul's 22nd annual "Hermano Day." This is the day in which we support our farmworker brothers in Christ through donations to the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. This year, cash donations of \$2745.00 were given by St. Paul's church members and over 50 bags of clothing and many crates of food were donated. These goods were distributed to farmworkers in labor camps by the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. The monetary donations were used to provide necessary services to the farmworkers.

- St. Paul's Care Committee generously donated \$3,000 in April for an EFwM food drive during the COVID crisis.
- Additionally, in August, a back to school "Backpack Drive" at the EFwM was held and St. Paul's jumped in to help. With generous support from the St. Nicholas ministry which donated the backpacks and many supplies, 50 backpacks full of school supplies each containing a \$25 gift card were delivered to Newton Grove for distribution to school aged children. \$1293.00 was collected and used to buy gift cards for the backpacks. Additional donated gift cards for the ministry were delivered as well.
- Members of St. Paul's participated in the 'Beloved Neighbors' training series offered by the EFwM about farmworkers and immigration. Others volunteered at the ministry delivering food and Christmas presents to the farmworker community during the COVID crisis.
- The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry responded in an extraordinary way to the COVID crisis and St. Paul's was able to lend its strong support...
- By sharing the bounty of our lives with those who provide us with the bounty on our tables, we live into the mission of St. Paul's to honor the presence of Christ in each other.

Submitted by Gale Hermann.

MEALS ON WHEELS:

The pandemic challenged how our ministry was to serve during 2020. For years we have delivered meals once each month to the elderly and home-bound on our routes in Cary. Our volunteer teams would

meet inside the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary, and depart with meals in hot-bags, and drinks in coolers, to deliver on our assigned routes.

Everything changed the last week in March. Our deliveries were now to be made once each week instead of once per month. Many of our volunteers did this for 40 straight weeks. The Resurrection Lutheran Church, like many other churches, was not open to the public during the pandemic. Our ministry members now had pre-packaged meals and groceries loaded into our vehicles in the parking lot. The Meals on Wheels site manager, Dubba Lucas, issued us masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers. Often, we were given handouts, gifts, cards, and even fresh produce from the Farmer's Market to deliver on our routes.

Ministry members are Dana Petersen, Toni Holderied, Mike O'Dowd, Terry Babb, Ted Straub, Tommy Harrill, Annette Smith, Bob and Geri Johnson, Geri Antonides, Robin Miller, Gail Duncan, Elaine Hunt, Dennis Holderied, Jan Barbee, Barbara Brickman, Kittie Davenport, and John Hemperly.

Special Thanks to Ted Straub, Terry Babb, Tommy Harrill, Mike O'Dowd, John Hemperly, Robin Miller, and Dana Petersen for their extra effort!

Submitted by Bob Petersen.

REFUGE FOR REFUGEES:

Refuge for Refugees (R4R) continued its ministry, despite the difficulties presented by COVID-19. We have met every month this year, even if over Zoom (since April).

Of the seven families Refuge for Refugees (R4R) has supported since 2016, three families have moved away – to Minnesota, Iowa, and Texas – where there are large communities of people from their home countries.

In 2020, R4R helped with support for five families. One of the five was the family that relocated to Texas to be near relatives. Three of the families have done well in 2020, especially considering the terrible times we are experiencing. One family had its worker laid off because of COVID and faced with loss of all income. Another family, one which R4R has only recently formally accepted, is also facing hardships.

R4R has helped two families financially to survive unemployment in the midst of the pandemic. We have also helped the families with filing applications for “green” cards, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, and unemployment benefits. We have helped with filing taxes, medical appointments, and have arranged for grants to help with rent and food. We have worked to ensure that the children in the families can continue with their education online. To that end, we have provided laptops or tablets for the children

to use to access the Wake County Public School System classes, teachers, and resources online. (We are extremely grateful to those St. Paul's members who contributed tablets or computers for the children to use.) On top of that, one R4R member set up these devices and showed the children how to use them. She also obtained low-cost internet access for three of the families. We helped one student enroll at Wake Tech to continue his education, and provided computers for him, his siblings in high school, and for his parents to take ESL classes remotely.

Despite the obstacles COVID has set in place, we have also celebrated! The mother of one of the families has completed her studies at Wake Tech this year, earning a degree in Dental Assisting, and has begun full time work. We celebrated her graduation with a video that we shared with St. Paul's. You can see the video at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf6wvftajY&feature=youtu.be>.

Despite the obstacles presented by COVID-19, R4R has continued to help refugee families cope with the challenges of the pandemic and to adapt to life in the U.S. Physical contact has been much reduced, and we have followed recommended protocols whenever we have been nearby. The challenges have been huge, and “thank you” to the members of R4R have been creative and loving in finding a way to help these refugee families.

Submitted by M. M. Cupitt.

ST. NICHOLAS MINISTRY:

Despite COVID, social distancing, and a closed campus, St. Nicholas had his usual commitments to fulfill. The circumstances required a great deal of flexibility for all. A gift-card drive proved to be the safest and easiest way to get the generosity of St. Paul's Parish to the people who need it.

Supplemental gifts were purchased early in the year for 2020 with the budget from 2019. Those gifts went to 40 children of the participants at Healing Transitions.



St. Nicholas Pictures: Delivery of St. Nicholas Gifts

In addition, forty children from Families Together and 233 children from CommWell Health each received a \$50 gift certificate from either Walmart or Amazon. The gift-card drive was such a success that there was enough money left to also provide each family served by CommWell Health an additional \$25 gift certificate.

Although it was without the traditions and festivities, in all, the people of St. Paul's donated more than \$20,000!

Submitted by Colette Hibberd.

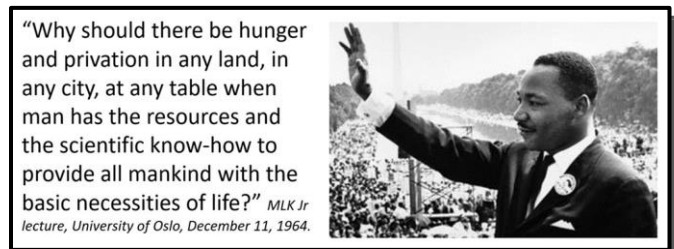
RISE AGAINST HUNGER:

On Martin Luther King Jr Day (January 20, 2020) St. Paul's sent 3 teams led by Ramsey McIntire, Brooke Mautz, and Mary Marsha Cupitt (18 volunteers, \$391.85 in donations) to the Raleigh Convention Center to stand shoulder to shoulder with teams from several Raleigh area organizations including Watts

Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Edenton Street United Methodist Church, Girl Scouts, Wake Tech, Cisco, and Red Hat, among others, to package meals for Rise Against Hunger (RAH). In total there were 1,100 volunteers working together, and we packaged 171,936 meals!

This event was powerful and inspiring and was a great reflection of MLK Jr's vision of all people working together for a greater good. "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." MLK Jr Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, December 10, 1964

If you missed the event in January, don't worry! There will be more chances to participate at RAH meal packaging events. St. Paul's will host an event in summer 2020 with support from the



Children's Ministries Little Brown Basket and Outreach. And, please mark your calendars for MLK Jr Day in 2021 (January 18), which is already in the works!

Submitted by Ramsey McIntire.

VETERANS AND MILITARY OUTREACH (VMO):

Happy 3rd Anniversary Veterans and Military Outreach! The calendar year, 2020 unfolded a challenge for VMO family members, that they faced with resilience and grace. Due to their spirit and commitment, it resulted in a year of both positive reflection and change.

VMO expanded its online presence and is now fully structured so that VMO volunteers can express their love for God and use their gifts in multiple ways with outreach efforts communicated via email or telephone and formalized in a Zoom environment.

VMO has been truly gifted with loving, caring individuals that donate their time and talents in a variety of ways. Care packages continue to be appreciated. Also, a penpal initiative was implemented in 2020 and is thriving. Our VMO families use their creativity to stay in touch with deployed military members. The children have become a big part of this initiative as the committee tasks the children with theme ideas and they create artwork to send with cards of appreciation.

The homeless initiative has continued through email announcements describing needs and includes scheduled pick-ups and distributions. Over the past year, the homeless initiative collected and delivered personal items (donated hotel toiletries, soaps, shampoos, t-shirts, socks and under garments), to the North Carolina National Guard morale and welfare for distribution to military members placed on duty for local commitments. Although the wagon in the Narthex is unavailable to parishioners to donate at this time, (due to COVID restrictions), people may contact VMO at VMO@stpaulscary.org to schedule a pickup.

The veterans emotional support initiative (annual dog biscuit drive) was placed on hold due to the health crisis. Persons interested in donating were instructed to send their donations directly to *Vet-to-vets United*, 732 Ninth Street, Box 595, Durham, NC 27705 to ensure the program remained supported. Terry Morris, program director, shared with the committee the creative efforts they implemented to continue to train.

The USO initiative (LOVE collection) in February collected and distributed snack items to the USO airport for traveling military families. The program is on hold until COVID restrictions are lifted. COVID may have impacted our veteran outreach regarding recognition of veterans during coffee hours in February and November, and loss of homeless hygiene supply drop in the wagon in the church

Narthex but it did not dampen enthusiasm for reaching out to our military members with constant reminders of love and appreciation.

VMO is truly blessed and grateful for our St. Paul parishioner's and military families that dedicate their time to such a worthy cause.

Submitted by Penny Tennian

STEWARDSHIP

ENDOWMENT BOARD:

The St. Paul's Endowment was created in 2008. Through generous gifts of our parishioners, the total fund has now reached \$324,341 and another \$322,450 has been promised through planned gifts. The Legacy Society of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, comprised of all donors (whether their gift was actual or is promised), now has 38 members, 30 of whom are Founding Members.

In 2020, the Endowment Board continued to manage the investment of St. Paul's endowment funds in consultation with financial advisors. The custodian of the funds remains Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated and Board membership remains robust with all eight members continuing to serve.

Financial reports were submitted to the vestry including a 2019 Annual Report as well as Quarterly Reports. Distribution calculations allowed the Board to make distributions from the General Fund (\$1,500) as well as the two designated-use funds (\$750 from Outreach and \$950 from Grounds). After soliciting requests from the parish, and after reviewing all such requests, the Board recommended to the Vestry that the distributions be used as follows:

- \$1,700 for courtyard lighting (made up of the entire Grounds Distribution of \$950 plus \$750 from the General Distribution);
- \$750 for a new climbing structure for the Kids' Club and the Preschool; and
- \$750 for Johnson Service Corp.

A new designated-use fund was established in 2020. A kind donation from the Tom and Debra Johnson family created the Kids' Club Fund to support St. Paul's nursery in perpetuity.

The Board had grand plans for Legacy Society recognition events in 2020 which were, unfortunately, canceled due to the pandemic. Despite the delay in holding in-person gatherings, the Board made much progress in our plans to celebrate Legacy Society members in the upcoming year. Specifically, through the generous contribution of the Hirschy family, a plaque was purchased recognizing Legacy Society

members to date. In consultation with the Furnishings, Fixtures, & Finishes committee, the plaque was installed in the narthex. Lapel pins were also purchased as a recognition gift for all Legacy Society members. As we are able, the Board plans to “unveil” the plaque and distribute the pins, hopefully in the first half of 2021.

If you would like to become a member of the St. Paul’s Legacy Society by donating to or making a planned gift to the St. Paul’s Endowment, please contact Katie Bricio (katiebricio13@gmail.com). If you have already specified St. Paul’s Endowment as a beneficiary of a planned gift, we ask that you consider submitting a donor agreement to memorialize this commitment if you have not done so already. Donor agreements are available on the St. Paul’s website.

Detailed financial reports about the endowment are available upon request. Please email Katie Bricio (katiebricio13@gmail.com) with any comments or questions.

PARISH OPERATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Communications Committee Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: In March 2020, St. Paul’s suspended in-person gatherings at the church. In order to continue to provide worship services to our parish and beyond, Facebook Live was used to stream worship services that could be viewed live or recorded on home computers or cell phones. Zoom and other video conferencing platforms were implemented for adult formation, youth, children, preschool, ministry programs, and meetings. This is how “WE ADAPT.”

Com Com Zoom Meetings: On March 19, 2020, Fr. George Adamik conducted a meeting, held via Zoom, to determine how we would communicate with the parish during the pandemic when we could not be present in the church together. There were 38 weekly Com Com/Vestry Zoom meetings throughout 2020. The meetings highlighted, as never before, the importance of communicating with parishioners and the community. Members of this group are: Fr. George Adamik, Fr. Javier Almendárez-Bautista, Fill Bowen, Larry Cupitt, Melanie Fairbrother, Brandon Jernigan, Mary Kintz, Tad Richard, Katie Robinson, Brian Rudy, Lanny Wase, and Gordon Werner. Mary Kintz takes over in 2021 as ministry leader of the Communications Committee from outgoing ministry leader Gordon Werner.

Livestream Worship Services: Sunday services on Facebook Live started on March 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. and may continue indefinitely. Livestream Morning Prayer services were initiated at 8:00 a.m. on March 23, and are held Monday – Friday each week. In 2020, over 250 worship services including over 50 Sunday, Easter, and Christmas services were streamed. Over 200 Morning Prayer services were conducted by clergy and lay members. Other videos include Christmas Pageant, Lessons and Carols, Weekly Updates from George, and others. Videos are posted on www.facebook.com/stpaulscary/videos.

These high-quality livestream worship services and videos would not have been possible without the technical expertise and ongoing effort of volunteers, especially Brian Rudy and Fill Bowen. Brian has managed the installation and operation of video equipment in the church. Brian, Fill, and other volunteers come to church as needed to record the services. Fill and Brian put together excellent livestream presentations as well as videos that could be seen afterward. On Christmas Eve, Brian set up FM radio equipment used to broadcast the outdoor services. Rusty McKinney, along with his staff and choir members, were able to put together beautiful music for the services, even while social-distancing from each other, and have it integrated into the video. “Virtual Coffee Hours” are held on Zoom after the 9:00 a.m. service on second and fourth Sundays.

Weekly Communications: A weekly video is posted on Facebook and website, usually done by George. A weekly *Hope for the Journey* post is written for the web, usually by Javier or George. A weekly update email is sent to parishioners via MailChimp, usually written by George, formatted, and distributed by Larry Cupitt. Our monthly *St. Paul's Letter* has been suspended during the pandemic, but was issued in February and March of 2020. The paper announcements insert for the bulletin has also been suspended.

Online Programs: Adult formation, children, youth, and preschool programs, and ministry meetings were held using Zoom or other online methods. Parish meetings were held via Zoom Webinar.

Website (www.stpaulscary.org): The website has been used extensively during the pandemic. Posting and updating is done by Brandon Jernigan, Gordon Werner, John Hemperly, Tad Richard, and Tom Fransen. To provide a central location for updates and resources during the pandemic, Brandon created a banner on the website called *St. Paul's Connects*. E-News is emailed via MailChimp to subscribers, and is issued every other week. Website, E-News, or Facebook articles should be submitted to <mailto:PleasePost@stpaulscary.org>.

Facebook (www.facebook.com/stpaulscary): St. Paul's Facebook site is administered by Fill Bowen. In 2020, the majority of our worship was done via Facebook, making Facebook the “heavy lifter” of the year.

YouTube channel: Managed by Brandon: www.youtube.com/channel/UCmL1Yr7I0-KwwrL91N_dntw.

St. Paul's Cares: The consultant Nicole Baxley conducted a parish survey. Results are forthcoming.

Submitted by Gordon Werner.

KIDS' CLUB / NURSERY:

The Nursery / Kids' Club ministry has a special role in welcoming many new families to the church. Our ministry provides a safe and nurturing environment for infants through school age children. We are a small group of dedicated women who enjoy working with children and taking the time to develop relationships with them. Kids' Club enables parents to attend church, teach Sunday school, attend choir practice, and participate in other meetings or events while their children play in Kids' Club. Kids' Club care is available during Sunday morning services each week. We also care for school age children in the evenings (upon request to the Director) so adults who are parents can participate fully in church events.

In March of 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic descended on the United States causing a nationwide and statewide shut down. This included all churches and in-person worship. Our last Sunday working in the nursery with the children was March. 7, 2020. In accordance with the Diocese of North Carolina, the church nursery will be able to open its door again once we enter Stage 3. We are currently still in Stage 1B. It's hard to fathom but it will be more than a year until we can provide nursery care again to our littlest parishioners.

The positive news is our Kids' Club building has not stood vacant. It is currently being used by the preschool as the Transitional Kindergarten classroom. It looks amazing! Please see the photos. Ms. Beth Rossi and Ms. Natania Reyes have worked hard to transform the space into a warm, welcoming,

and charming little schoolhouse.



On another positive note, the Capital Campaign renovations have begun! We look forward to our new nursery / Kids' Club space in the education building. The new nursery location is closer to the church entrance and a more convenient spot for parents to drop off and pick up their children.

Our wonderfully committed 2020 staff that is "on hold" consists of Amy Burger, Alexis Hetrick, Sarah Fisher, Jenny Smith, and Lisa Walt. We are grateful for our former nursery staff member, Natania Reyes, who subbed for us on occasion. I deeply appreciate this professional and devoted staff who have offered their Sunday mornings and evenings to work in the nursery. These caring ladies have ensured that Kids' Club runs smoothly year-round. They have welcomed families every Sunday, served goldfish crackers, cleaned up with cheer and skill and provide a stellar service to the families of the church. We hope and pray 2021 brings us back to caring for our little St. Paul's cherubs! We miss you all!!

Submitted by Laura Gorman, Nursery Director.

MINISTRY LEADER RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

The goal of the Ministry Leader Resource Committee (MLRC) is to further the mission of St. Paul's through supporting its ministry leaders and by inviting and encouraging parishioners to get involved in parish life. Although this past year has been challenging, many of our ministries have adapted and continued to serve the needs of our parish and the community. The MLRC has supported these groups through maintaining a current list of ministries and their contact information. This Ministry List is updated often and posted on the website. The Handbook for Ministry Leaders remains available online. The MLRC manages an email list which includes all ministry leaders and is used to disseminate timely information to them and their group members.

Another important task of the MLRC is to recognize and approve new ministries. The Food Security Action Group was recently added to the list of St. Paul's ministries. This group came together to meet food security needs during the pandemic and plans to continue after the current crisis is over. The MLRC welcomes them as part of St. Paul's outreach efforts.

Mini Fairs have traditionally been an excellent way for ministry leaders to highlight their activities. The MLRC will be looking into the possibility of offering small virtual mini fairs where leaders can showcase their ministry and perhaps enlist new volunteers. There are still many opportunities for people, including newcomers, to get involved.

While virtual meetings are essential at this time, they will most likely remain an option even when the pandemic crisis is over. The Communications Committee is creating a Zoom account specifically for ministry leaders and the MLRC plans to work with them to share the news with ministry leaders and to help with training, if necessary.

The MLRC is looking forward to a time when we can all gather again. But in the meantime, we will continue to support our many ministries and to help parishioners find ways to engage in the life of this parish.

Current members of the MLRC: Margie Best, Frank Bricio, Gail Duncan, Jeff Kager, Mary Kintz, Sally Moller, Brian Rudy, Karen Smith, Victor Talbird, and Lanny Wase.

Submitted by Lanny Wase.

SERVING ST. PAUL'S AND THE COMMUNITY

PRESCHOOL:

The Preschool opened on October 5th, 2020. We currently have 4 classes, 8 teachers, and 35 students. The classes meet in the youth wing, music room, and Kids' Club. We are thankful for the use of these spaces during the renovations.

The directors, teachers, and children wear face masks at all times (outside mask breaks are given during the day). Even our stuffed pug, Lollipop, wears a face mask! The staff and children receive daily temperature checks and answer COVID questions upon arrival to preschool.



Even though this year is different, we have been able to adapt and keep our St. Paul's Preschool traditions up and running. We had a drive-by Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, and Cookies and Candy Canes. We put the goodies in individual bags, and the parents stopped by the table for their treat after dismissal.



Chapel videos have been emailed monthly. Thanks to Father George and Father Javier, the children are able to watch and listen to a Bible story and hear the Lord's Prayer.

Instead of going to the Pumpkin Patch, we brought the Pumpkin Patch to the Preschool. We purchased pumpkins from Phillip's Farm and "planted" them in the garden plots behind the youth wing. Each



child visited the Pumpkin Patch to pick out his/her very own pumpkin to take home.



We hosted our Halloween Parade around the drop off circle in front of the church. The teachers and children wore their Halloween costumes and paraded around the circle to Halloween music. Parents stood 6 feet apart and waved to their children. We loved seeing all the creative costumes!

Our Transitional Kindergarten class held their 6th Annual Can Food Drive. The Preschool collected over 400 items to donate. We were very thankful for all the generous donations.

We braved the cold and had our Christmas program outside. The theme this year was “Reindeer.” The children wore reindeer t-shirts over their coats. Our blow-up reindeer even made an appearance.

We were excited to return to Preschool on January 4th.

Unfortunately, Wake County’s rate of positive tests rose above 9% so we had to move to Virtual Preschool. The teachers are conducting daily Zoom meetings from the classroom. The children participate in the calendar activities, sing songs, say the “Pledge of Allegiance,” participate in scavenger hunts and games, listen to stories, learn about the letter of the week, and the current theme and have “Show and Tell.” “Show and Tell” is by far their favorite online activity! Some of the teachers delivered special crafts to the children’s houses.



We hope the rate of positive test numbers begin to drop so we can return to in person learning. We miss our sweet, funny, smart Preschoolers!

Submitted by Brooke Bowersox, Preschool Director.

RESILIENCE MINISTRY:

Saint Paul's Resilience Ministry - Supporting Families and Individuals at Saint Paul's and Beyond

Based in a Christian faith community, the Resilience Ministry seeks to -

1. Increase awareness of both the long-term impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the ability of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) to diminish the effects of ACEs.
2. Provide resources to empower individuals, families, and communities to understand, prevent, and respond to the effects of childhood trauma.
3. Instill a sense of hopefulness that each of us can make a difference by promoting positive childhood experiences.

What a year! Despite conducting all meetings and educational activities online since mid-March, 2020, Resilience Ministry members were able to serve in a variety of ways - as well as prepare new initiatives to launch when in-person programs again become possible.

- Programs and activities completed in 2020 include the following:
- Presented Resilience Program at Cary Presbyterian Church: ACEs, PCEs and case studies.
- Connections Matter - 2 Trainers Certified.
- Consulted with Resilience Leadership Group, Sanford, NC.

- Presented Resilience Adult Formation Class - ACEs, PCEs & Connections Matter.
- Completed Resilience Youth Curriculum; awaiting in-person implementation.
- Participated in Protective Factors Week, PCANC.
- Participated on PCANC Planning Committee for Connections Matter Professional Training.

Ministry Activities to be continue in 2021:

- Post relevant Resilience and Pandemic materials on St. Paul's website.
- Provide additional relevant information to Pre-School Director.
- Partner with other Faith Communities, the Diocese of NC and the NC Council of Churches.
- Update Community Resource Handbook.

Resilience Ministry plans for 2021 are incomplete since much depends on whether and when groups can gather for in-person programs. Programs that are either currently scheduled (to be online) or will be scheduled when we can be physically present with each other:

- Faith Community Panel at PCANC (online) state-wide meeting, March 16, 2021.
- Youth Resilience Curriculum
- Connections Matter Training - possibly with Cary Presbyterian Church
- Pre-School Staff Refresher

The Resilience Ministry is led by a Committee which meets (currently online) every other month. When a specific program is being prepared, a subcommittee will meet as necessary to plan the event.

Two new members were welcomed to the Ministry committee during 2020. Any parishioner with questions or interest in joining the Resilience Ministry is urged to contact Howard Loughlin (<mailto:hloughlin@earthlink.net>) or Jackie Straub (<mailto:jmpstraub@aol.com>).

Submitted by Howard Loughlin.